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Vararia longicystidiata sp. nov. (*Agaricomycetes*) from India

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Abstract – A new corticioid species, *Vararia longicystidiata*, is described on decaying wood of *Quercus incana* from Uttarakhand state in India.

Key words – *Basidiomycota,* Chaurangi Khal, Uttarakashi

While conducting fungal forays in Chaurangi Khal area of district Uttarakashi, Uttarakhand (India), Samita collected an unknown corticioid fungus on decaying wood of *Quercus incana*. The presence of dichohyphidia and inamyloid smooth basidiospores indicated that the species belonged to *Vararia*, but it could not be assigned to any previously described species (Welden 1965, Parmasto 1970, Boidin & Lanquetin 1976, Rattan 1977, Boidin et al. 1980, Hallenberg & Eriksson 1985, Pegler & Young 1993). A detailed description of the specimen along with the microphotographs and line diagrams was sent to Prof. Nils Hallenberg (Sweden), who supported the description of a new species in the genus *Vararia*.

Vararia longicystidiata Samita, Sanyal, Dhingra & Avneet P. Singh, **sp. nov.**
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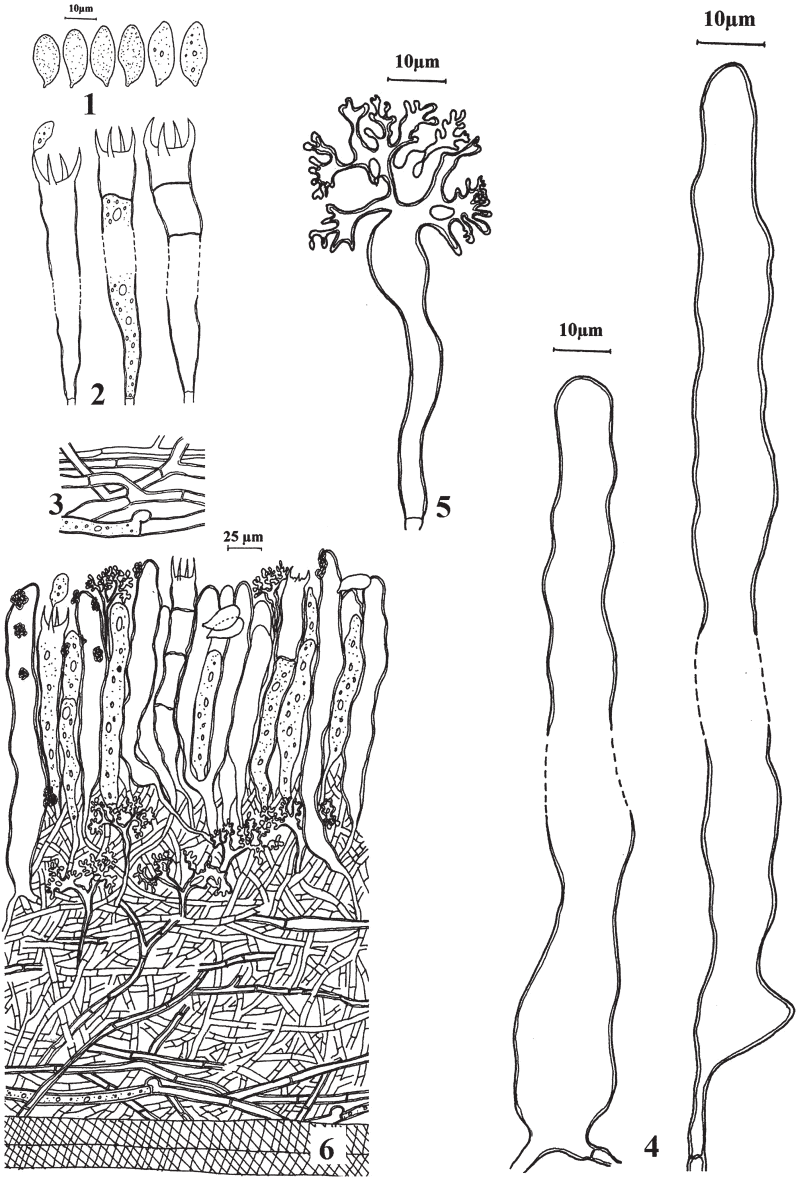
Differs from *Vararia gomezii* in its larger cystidia, basidia, and basidiospores.

Type: India, Uttarakhand: Uttarakashi, Chaurangi Khal, on decaying wood of *Quercus incana* Bartram, 29 September 2011, Samita 4413 (PUN, **holotype**).

Etymology: The epithet refers to the long cylindrical cystidia.

Basidiocarp resupinate, adnate, effused, up to 230 µm thick in section, hymenial surface smooth to somewhat tuberculate, light orange; margins thinning, fibrillose, paler concolorous to whitish. Hyphal system monomitic; generative hyphae up to 5.5 µm wide, branched, septate, generally without clamps; basal hyphae loosely arranged, more or less parallel to the substrate, interspersed with some thick-walled hyphae with oily contents, some cells



Figs 1–6. *Vararia longicystidiata*, microscopic structures.
1. Basidiospores; 2. basidia; 3. generative hyphae; 4. cystidia;
5. dichohyphidia; 6.section through basidiocarp.

Fig. 7. *Vararia longicystidiata*, basidiocarp (holotype).

inflated; subhymenial hyphae vertical, compactly arranged. Dichohyphidia more common in subhymenium than hymenium, abundant, coralloid, branches irregular with blunt endings, dextrinoid. Cystidia 100.0–188.0 × 8.8–17.5 µm, abundant, subcylindrical to sinuous, thick-walled, without basal clamp, negative to sulphovanillin. Basidia 70.0–110.0 × 9.0–13.0 µm, clavate, 4-sterigmate, frequently with secondary septa, without basal clamp, with or without oily contents; sterigmata up to 12.5 µm long; basidioles rich in oily contents. Basidiospores 15.0–20.0 × 6.0–7.5 µm, sub-fusiform to navicular, with numerous oil-drops, thin- to somewhat thick-walled, inamyloid, acyanophilous.

Remarks—*Vararia longicystidiata* resembles *V. gomezii* Boidin. & Lanq. (reported from South America and Africa) in having similar basidiocarps and basidiospore shape. However, *V. gomezii* differs in having ovoid unthickened cystidia (14–50 × 8–14 µm), smaller basidia (34.0–45.0– x 7.5), and smaller basidiospores (13.0–14.8 × 4.8–6. 25 µm; Boidin and Lanquetin; 1977).

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